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MEDIA CONTACT: GARY SOMERSET 202.512.1957, 202.355.3997 cell gsomerset@gpo.gov

GPO'S STATEMENT ON MISSING LAPTOPS

(WASHINGTON)--The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) has found no evidence there was a security breach or sensitive information has been compromised resulting from the missing laptops discovered by the agency's Inspector General (IG). GPO has recovered some of the missing laptops and believes many were re-issued and not stolen. Regarding the IG's report that claims one of the laptops "potentially contains" sensitive e-passport information, GPO has a record that the laptop of the Security and Intelligent Documents Product Security Manager (who retired) was wiped clean, but then apparently was not able to locate the laptop to prove that to the IG. Upon further investigation, this laptop in question is currently within GPO's possession and verified the memory has been wiped clean.

In 2008, GPO's IT department has been encrypting newly issued laptops and finished upgrading deployed laptops to prevent access to data in the event it is lost or stolen. GPO has a process of turning in used laptops to the agency's IT department to have the hard drives erased or destroyed. However, the IG report noted the agency needs a better inventory control system once a laptop has been re-issued or destroyed. Enhanced security procedures have been instituted to control these critical assets. GPO has embarked on a comprehensive process to improve our inventory management.

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